

Call for papers

International Conference on:

Borges's Legacy around the world: Readers and Readings

Date: November 21-22, 2019

Venue: Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Moulay Ismail University, Meknes - Morocco

Organized by: Department of French Language and Literature

Rationale

Borges' s texts continue to travel around the world; they have been translated into several languages and continue to fascinate and fertilize world literature. Few writings have inspired so many writers and critics in all disciplinary fields. Borges´ s writings have not only constituted an inexhaustible universal inter-text but also give its readers an infinite and constantly renewed pleasure. More than a century after his birth and more than thirty years after his death, this author is more alive than before. His writing becomes the allegory of human thought that, through an elegant language, reflects his thoughts, dreams and emotions. This Argentinean author's literature reflects the complexity of the modern world through brief, concise but profound forms of writing.

For Borges, writings and literary productions are part of the rewriting of the same text belonging to a single author. The notion of rewriting paves the path to write the work in the context of universal literature since he draws on several literatures that have influenced and inspired him. Thus, he has shown interest in Western and Eastern literature. The reference to these literatures is strongly present in his news as well as in his essays. First comes *The Thousand and One Nights*, *The Divine Comedy*, *Don Quixote* and a multitude of universal authors, such as Shakespeare, Homer, Yeats, Blake, Averroes, Schopenhauer and many others.

In the 21st century, Borges' s literature in turn becomes an essential universal inter- text for many contemporary works. His aesthetic and subtle rhetoric have marked several generations of writers and have generated a whole production from around the world that bears his mark. The worlds created by Borges intrigue and seduce, intimidate and bewitch. In Latin America, North America, Europe, Asia and Africa, Borges has a strong presence and continues to inspire writers and critics, such as Mario Vargas Llosa, Néstor Ibarra, Roger Caillois, Umberto Eco, Michel Lafon, Maurice Blanchot, Abdelfattah Kilito, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Abdelhak Serhane, Raphael Lellouche, Antoine Compagnon and so many others.

The Borgesian themes seem at first sight abstract, sophisticated and too intellectual to be at the center of the concerns and questions of the man of the twenty-first century, the man of all times: Time, Creation, Identity, the Metaphysics, the Labyrinth, the Infinite, the Possible and the Impossible ... Consequently, the intertextuality becomes the space of the inter-cultural where each of its readers is found and reflected. The other becomes the same, each according to his culture and experience. The aim of this international symposium is to bring together Borges' readers, admirers and specialists in order to sketch an overview of current research on Borges, his poetic, philosophical and metaphysical orientations. The Borgesian text is interdisciplinary in nature. It leads itself particularly to comparative studies. Today, new approaches and methods are needed to address Borges' s thinking and text. In addition to the issue of literary history, rewriting and the multiplication of narrative voices, the Borgesian legacy has the characteristics of a transversal and transcultural text.

The didactic dimension is another aspect that deserves our full interest. This symposium offers the opportunity to ask the following questions: How do we teach Borges in our universities and other higher education institutions? What place does it occupy in our curricula? What reception do we devote to him in our classrooms and lecture halls?

Borges, the author with multiple facets, was so many men ["I who was so many men"] invites us today to discover his texts in a communicative, critical and didactic paradigm .

The Arabic inter-text is a choice component in Borges' s literature, fiction, essay and poetry. Polyglot as he was, Borges regarded his ignorance of Arabic as a failure. A few months before his death, he began to learn this language in the ultimate hope of reading Arabic writers in their language. Moroccan critics and researchers have showed a great interest in this type of intertextuality, which will also be one of the focus of this symposium.

Main conference topics:

- I- Reception of the Borgesian work in the XXI century. What is the reading of Borges in the 21st century?
- II- Borges and inter- disciplinarity
- III- Texts of Borges: a universal inter- text
- IV- Borges and the Arab world
- V- Borges in Morocco, what presence?
- VI- Teaching the work of Borges: approaches and methods

Submission:

- Conference languages: French, English, Spanish and Arabic
- Registration fees for the conference (once the communication has been accepted):
- Professors: MAD 500, 50 Euros (This sum covers the costs of two lunches, coffee breaks and conference portfolio)
- PhD candidates: 200 MAD, 20 Euros

Important dates

- Deadline for submission of proposals: May 30, 2019 (Title and summary of a dozen lines, accompanied with a brief bio data to be sent to the following email address: zlhioui@yahoo.fr)
- Date of the notifications of acceptance: 15 July 2019
- Date of submitting the full paper: 15 October 2019

Scientific Committee:

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